

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 /123 W

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R 190915Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9685

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSLES

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EGEN, DA

SUBJ: DANISH POLITICIANS' VIEWS ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

1. WHEN I SAW PRIME MINISTER HARTLING SEPTEMBER 18 I  
ASKED FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION  
WHICH IS HEADING TOWARD A CRISIS SEPT 20 AFTER WEEKS OF  
HECTIC MANEUVERING. HARTLING SMILED AND SAID: " I WILL  
BE ABLE TO TELL YOU FRIDAY AFTERNOON WHAT IS GOING TO  
HAPPEN" (I.E., AFTER THE VOTE IN PARLIAMENT). WHEN I  
PRESSED HIM FURTHER HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT  
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THAT ELECTIONS WERE UNAVOIDABLE. HE CONCEDED THAT

WHILE ELECTIONS MIGHT ALLOW HIS LIBERAL PARTY TO IMPROVE ITS 22-SEAT HOLDING IN THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT, HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENT COULD BE CONSTRUCTED AFTERWARD.

2. JUST PRIOR TO SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER I HAD HAD A FEW WORDS WITH THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER IN PARLIAMENT, POUL SCHLUTER. HE APPEARED QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THE COMPROMISE WHICH THE SIX PARTIES IN THE CENTRAL GROUP (INCLUDING HIS OWN AND HARTLING'S LIBERALS) HAD REACHED SEPT 17 WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SAVE THE DAY, AND AVOID ELECTIONS GIVEN ABSTENTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF GLISTRUP'S PROGRESS PARTY OR EVEN FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. WHETHER SCHLUTER WAS WHISTLING IN THE DARK OR NOT I DO NOT KNOW, BUT THE POLLS ALL INDICATE THAT HIS CONSERVATIVE PARTY WOULD SUFFER BADLY IN ELECTIONS.

3. EARLIER ON SEPT 18 DURING MY CALL ON DEFMIN BRONDUM (SEPTELS), I HAD ASKED HIM WHETHER HE THOUGHT THAT AN ELECTION WOULD RESULT FROM THE FINAL READING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TAX BILL IN PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY. HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD REALLY GIVEN UP TRYING TO PREDICT THE COURSE OF DANISH POLITICS BECAUSE HE HAD "SO OFTEN BEEN WRONG." HE SAID THE SIX-PARTY COMPROMISE WOULD BE DEFEATED ON FRIDAY ONLY BY A COALITION BETWEEN THE FAR LEFT AND THE EXTREME RIGHT, I.E., GLISTRUP'S PARTY. BRONDUM DOUBTED THAT SUCH A COALITION WOULD OCCUR AND BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO ELECTIONS NOW.

4. I PASS ALONG THESE COMMENTS TO ILLUSTRATE THE STATE OF UNCERTAINTY PREVAILING IN THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK AT THIS TIME.

CROWE

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